

## Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 146133

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: XC

SUBJECT: WEEKLY STATUS REPORT -- THAILAND, INDONESIA,  
MALAYSIA, BURMA AND SINGAPORE AFFAIRS

BURMA

MUSLIMS FROM BURMA IN BANGLADESH (LOU)

AFTER AMBASSADOR SCHNEIDER DETERMINED OFFICIALLY THAT A  
DISASTER EXISTS IN BANGLADESH, AID ANNOUNCED ON JUNE 5  
THAT THE U.S. WILL PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO MUSLIMS NOW  
HOMELESS IN THE CHITTAGONG AREA. WE ARE PROVIDING THROUGH  
UNHCR OVER 2.5 MILLION DOLS IN FOOD UNDER PL-480 TITLE II  
AND 500,000 DOLS IN CASH. THIS IS IN LINE WITH OUR POLICY  
OF NOT TAKING SIDES ON THIS ISSUE, WHILE RESPONDING TO THE  
HUMAN SUFFERING RESULTING FROM THE SUDDEN EMIGRATION OF  
OVER 150,000 PEOPLE TO BANGLADESH.

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THAILAND

PRINCE PHISADET CALLS ON USG OFFICIALS (LOU)

DURING COURTESY CALLS ON AND MEETINGS WITH DR. PETER  
BOURNE, MATHEA FALCO, BOB OAKLEY AND OTHER USG OFFICIALS

FROM STATE, AID AND USDA, PRINCE PHISADET OUTLINED THE ACTIVITIES OF THE KING'S HILLTRIBE PROJECT IN OPIUM POPPY CROP SUBSTITUTION. ARGUING THAT THIS PROGRAM IS READY TO MOVE FROM THE RESEARCH STAGE TO EXTENSION WORK, THE PRINCE REQUESTED U.S. ASSISTANCE FOR HIS EFFORTS. DEPT OFFICIALS AGREED TO CONSIDER HIS REQUEST WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF RTG PLANS TO ELIMINATE OPIUM PRODUCTION IN THAILAND I.E. ANCILLARY TO PROPOSED USG DEVELOPMENT-NARCOTICS CONTROL PROJECTS.  
INDONESIA

GAO REVIEW OF US-INDONESIAN ENERGY RELATIONS (LOU)

EA/TIMBS AND DCM-DESIGNATE GARDNER MET WITH GAO ENERGY TEAM JUNE 7 FOR INITIAL BACKGROUND BRIEFING IN PREPARATION FOR GAO TEAM FIELD WORK. GAO TEAM EXPECTS TO INTERVIEW INTERESTED USG DEPARTMENTS OVER THE NEXT WEEK PRIOR VISITS TO OIL COMPANIES AND ACADEMIC EXPERTS ON INDONESIA IN THE U.S. WE EXPECT TO HAVE FINAL BRIEFING OF TEAM IN WASHINGTON ABOUT JUNE 23 PRIOR TEAM LEADER'S DEPARTURE EN ROUTE JAKARTA.

LNG DEVELOPMENTS (LOU)

WE ARE INFORMED THAT COMPANIES NOW EXPECT TO BEGIN FINAL NEGOTIATIONS ON NEW PRICE ESCALATOR FORMULA IN JAKARTA  
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ABOUT JUNE 21 FOLLOWING CONFERENCES WITH GOI OFFICIALS IN GENEVA (DURING OPEC SESSION) ON JUNE 16-17. NEW ESCALATOR PROPOSAL DUE IN DOE BY JULY 1.

SINGAPORE

REFUGEES VAM CO 24 (LOU)

THE DEPT IS ATTEMPTING TO PROCESS RAPIDLY REFUGEES TAKEN FROM THE HIJACKED BOAT VAM CO-24. IT NOW APPEARS THAT A FAVORABLE DECISION WILL HAVE TO AWAIT FINAL AUTHORIZATION OF NEW PAROLE NUMBERS NOW ANTICIPATED TO OCCUR NEXT WEEK.

NEW OFFSHORE BANKING REGULATIONS IN SINGAPORE (UNCL)

SINGAPORE'S MONETARY AUTHORITY HAS DISTRIBUTED TO BANKS A CONFIDENTIAL MEMORANDUM WHICH ABOLISHES ALL EXCHANGE CONTROLS AS OF JUNE 1 AND, OF EVEN GREATER IMPORTANCE, ALSO ALLOWS OFFSHORE (E.G. AMERICAN) BANKS FOR THE FIRST TIME TO MAKE LOANS TO LOCAL COMPANIES IN ANY CURRENCY EXCEPT SINGAPORE DOLLARS. LOCAL BANKERS BELIEVE THAT

THESE CHANGES WILL MAKE OFFSHORE BANKS MORE COMPETITIVE  
AND MAY STIMULATE MORE LOCAL INVESTMENT AS INVESTORS MAY

BE HAPPIER IF THEY CAN DO BUSINESS IN SINGAPORE WITH SOME  
BANKS THEY USE AT HOME. THE GOS HOPES THE MEASURE WILL  
ENHANCE SINGAPORE'S POSITION AS A REGIONAL BANKING CENTER  
AND FURTHER DIVERSIFY ITS ECONOMY.

MALAYSIA

AMBASSADOR MILLER'S CONSULTATIONS (LOU)

AMBASSADOR MILLER WILL DEPART FOR NEW YORK ON JUNE 8  
WHERE HE WILL SPEND HIS LAST DAY OF CONSULTATIONS WITH  
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THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY. HE HAS HELD A WIDE RANGE OF  
DISCUSSIONS DURING THE PAST WEEK BOTH WITHIN AND OUTSIDE  
THE DEPARTMENT, COVERING VIRTUALLY EVERY ISSUE OF IMPOR-  
TANCE REGARDING US-MALAYSIAN RELATIONS.

MALAYSIAN ELECTIONS (CONF)

EMBASSY K.L. REPORTS THAT ELECTION PREPARATIONS HAVE  
ACCELERATED WITHIN THE PAST WEEKS TO THE POINT THAT  
NATIONAL ELECTIONS ARE VIEWED AS A PROBABILITY WITHIN  
THE NEXT EIGHT WEEKS. IT NOW APPEARS PROBABLE THAT  
PRIME MINISTER HUSSEIN WILL HOLD THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF  
THE UMNO (THE SENIOR PARTNER OF THE NATIONAL FRONT AND  
HUSSEIN'S PARTY) PRIOR THE NATIONAL PARLIAMENTARY ELEC-  
TIONS. HE IS ANTICIPATED THAT THE NATIONAL FRONT WILL BE  
RETURNED WITHOUT DIFFICULTY, ALTHOUGH ATTEMPTS WILL BE  
MADE TO UNHORSE CERTAIN PROMINENT UMNO LEADERS IN PAR-  
TICULAR PARLIAMENTARY DISTRICTS. MAJOR POLITICAL  
INTEREST CENTERS ON WHO WILL BE ELECTED UMNO VICE  
PRESIDENTS WHO ARE TRADITIONALLY PM ASPIRANTS. VANCE

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## Message Attributes

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